National Aeronautics and

LAGNIAPPE

www.ssc.nasa.gov

Volume 23 Issue 8 | John C. Stennis Space Center | August 24, 2000

NASA's newest Space Shuttle Main Engine roars to the approval of more than 2,000 people who flocked to Stennis Space Center on July 25 for the flight-certification test of the SSME Block II configuration. The new and significantly upgraded shuttle engine will be delivered to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida for use on future shuttle missions. The test ran for 520 seconds — the length of time it takes a shuttle to reach orbit.

NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg was guest speaker at John C. Stennis Space Center for the prestigious NASA Honor Awards ceremony Aug. 9. Stennis recognized 118 employees with the awards — NASA's highest form of recognition that it bestows to employees, contractors and members of the community. Prior to the presentation of awards, Rothenberg noted that the United States will play a dominant role in the next phase of activity related to the International Space Station. "The Space Shuttle Program will have an ambitious flight rate in which Stennis will play a critical role," he said. For coverage of the NASA Honor Awards, see Pages 5-9.

Shake, rattle, roar!

Huge crowd watches test of newest SSME

NASA's newest Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) roared to the approval of more than 2,000 people who flocked to the John C. Stennis Space Center on July 25 for the flight-certification test of the SSME Block II configuration.

The engine, a new and significantly upgraded shuttle engine, was to be delivered to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida for use on future missions. Spectators were able to experience the "shake, rattle and roar" of the engine, which ran for 520 seconds — the length of time it takes a shuttle to reach orbit. Spectators were bused from the new Launch Pad tour stop at the Mississippi I-10 Welcome Center to Stennis Space Center to view the test.

Visitors were taken to the A-2 viewing stand for the test and were transported to StenniSphere before returning to the Welcome Center.

"We are delighted to offer this special opportunity for our visitors to experience a test of a powerful Space Shuttle Main Engine that generates the power of 23 Hoover Dams," NASA's Myron Webb, public affairs chief at Stennis, said.

"This engine is fitted with all of its flight hardware and upon certification will enter the flight program," NASA's Pat Mooney, Space Shuttle Main Engine project manager at Stennis, said. "This engine will one day power a Space Shuttle to orbit."

The new SSME Block II engine configuration features a Pratt-Whitney high-pressure fuel turbopump — certified at Stennis — and a combustion chamber with a larger throat. Both modifications will, according to Mooney, improve safety for future Space Shuttle missions. Stennis Space Center is NASA's Lead Center for Rocket Propulsion Testing. The Boeing Company, Rocketdyne is responsible for development and flight acceptance testing of the Space Shuttle Main Engines.

LAGNIAPPE **Commentary**

Thirty-nine and holding . . .

NASA has always been big on anniversaries. I guess that trend got started way back in the early '60s when nearly everything we did was a "first." Like the other day, I heard on the news that the U.S. had launched its first missile from Cape Canaveral 50 years ago. To tell you the truth, I couldn't for the life of me tell you what it was. I asked Gator about the launch, and he just scratched his scaly head and replied, "Beats me, just how old do you think I am?"

Later, I heard that it was a small missile launched long before NASA was ever created.

"By the way, Gator, when is your anniversary?" I asked.

"You would have to ask that, my old history friend," he replied. "Why, I haven't even got enough toes and claws to answer that one!" he snorted. "If you must get personal, it was after the Alan Shepard launch in 1961 and before the John Glenn launch in 1962. In fact, I went out to the spot in Devil's Swamp with the crew that felled the first tree to start building this place in 1963. So, I guess I have been associated with NASA for some 39 years now. Thirty-nine and holding, as they say!"

"Why, Gator, you've almost been with NASA as long as it is old," I said.

"Yeah, I thought about that a couple of years ago when NASA celebrated its 40th anniversary."

"You know what is impressive to me, Gator?" I asked. "These young guys with NASA are continuing to rack up 'firsts' nearly every time you turn around."

"Yeah," Gator replied, "like over in October — I believe we are going to launch the 100th Space Shuttle. And, it seems just like yesterday that we were preparing for the first shuttle mission back in 1981. You were working out in Houston for that one, weren't you?"

"Sure was, my friend. I sorta volunteered for 'foreign duty' thinking they would send me down to Cape Canaveral, but you know what usually happens to volunteers. They sent me in the opposite direction! Oh, I guess it was all right. We were using computers for the first time to store, retrieve and release information to the news media. They needed someone like me to look up the information when the new computer technology failed. And, it did. So I did come in handy with my old books, papers and memories. Why, I could even tell 'em why Dr. von Braun thought we needed a Space Shuttle in the first place."

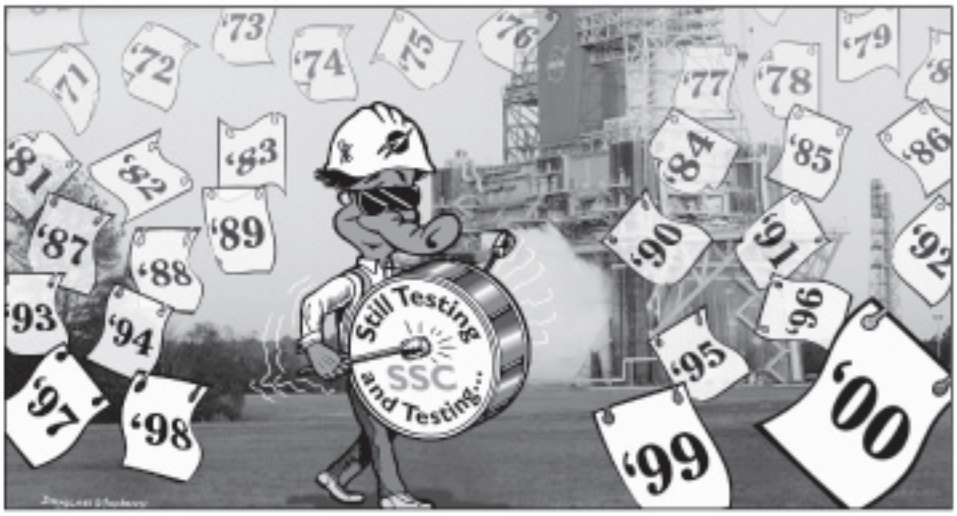
"Talking about a 'first.' Boy, that was really a first," Gator said. "The first launch of the new, reusable Space Shuttle. And, we will soon be launching the 100th shuttle. And, guess what, boss? We tested and flight certified every one of the Space Shuttle Main Engines right here on Stennis Space Center test stands."

"That is quite a record, Gator," I replied. "And, we are continuing to do our work at the same pace we always have and with the same perfection."

"Ark," Gator grunted. "Like the little Energizer Bunny on TV. We just keep on testing and testing and … "

Mack R. Herring

Aug. 26, 1935 - Aug. 16, 2000



A NOTE FROM THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

As most of you know, Mack Herring, historian and former Public Affairs Officer, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16. Stennis lost a tremendous asset. We lost a dear and dedicated friend.

Mack wrote this month's *Lagniappe Commentary, Thirty-nine and holding . . .*, from his hospital bed the week before his death. He completed the assignment with pen in hand on a yellow legal pad. Mack was nothing if not tenacious.


Mack Herring

So much of the public's perception of Stennis has been defined by Mack's descriptions. His affection and dedication to the people, the profession and the promise of Stennis Space Center was unabashedly apparent in all that he was.

He was the keeper of our collective memory. He was the teller of our story. It will be the sound of his voice, the telling of his tales that we will miss most.

Through the years, the friendship between Mack and Gator became a strong one. They shared a tremendous respect for one another, and their mutual musings about Stennis as it has passed through time has created an enduring and treasured scrapbook.

Personally, we depended on Mack to keep up with all that had happened at Stennis. His appetite for "savoring the moment" was insatiable. It made him a good journalist, an excellent historian and an inspirational mentor.

Those of us who have been here from the beginning now have the responsibility of picking up where he has left off. Those of you whose histories with Stennis aren't quite as old have an equal responsibility in contributing to the record.

Gator knows many stories that have yet to be told.

International Space Station (ISS) flight controllers in the United States and Russia have been continuing to prepare for the next station visitors, the crew of Shuttle mission STS-106, planned to open up the newly attached Zvezda living quarters module for the first time.

Following the Aug. 8 docking of a Progress supply vehicle to the station, controllers pressurized the vestibule between Progress and Zvezda and conducted a successful check for leaks.

Propellant lines between the supply craft and Zvezda also were checked, and controllers began moving propellants from the Progress tanks to fill those on the Zvezda module. During the fuel transfer, Zvezda's attitude control thrusters were shut down due to a ground command error. The shutdown posed no problems for the station, since it is in a naturally stable orientation. Further commands re-established operation of the attitude control thrusters.

Also, controllers using views from a camera on the Zarya module confirmed that one docking target on the exterior of Zvezda had only partially deployed after launch. Although the situation has no impact on current station activities, controllers are assessing the possibility of STS-106 astronauts Ed Lu and Yuri Malenchenko deploying the target manually during a spacewalk that is already planned for the mission.

Meanwhile, at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, Atlantis has been moved to its launch pad in anticipation of a planned Sept. 8 liftoff.

With the arrival of the Progress, the station continues a rapid expansion, now measuring 143 feet in length with a mass of 67 tons. The ISS can easily be viewed from the ground under proper lighting conditions. For details, look on the Internet at *http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/*.

During Crew Equipment Interface Test activities, the STS-106 crew checks equipment at SPACEHAB that they will use on their mission. From left are Mission Specialists Yuri Malenchenko, Boris Morukov and Richard Mastracchio, Pilot Scott Altman, and Mission Specialists Daniel Burbank and Edward Lu. Malenchenko and Morukov represent the Russian Aviation and Space Agency. STS-106 is scheduled to launch Sept. 8 on an 11-day mission to the International Space Station.

STS-106 mission to prepare ISS for first crew

The International Space Station (ISS) is not yet ready for full-time occupants, but the crew of STS-106 plans to change that.

The STS-106 crew is finalizing preparations for its mission to the ISS to prepare it for its first resident crew. STS-106 is scheduled to launch Sept. 8 on an 11-day mission.

The seven-member crew will also begin outfitting the newly arrived Zvezda Service Module. They will perform support tasks on orbit, transfer supplies and prepare the Zvezda living quarters for the first long-duration crew, dubbed "Expedition One," which is due to arrive at the station in late fall.

This will be the 98th shuttle mission. The crew will ride aboard the orbiter Atlantis and is scheduled to return Sept. 20.

Crew members are Commander Terrence Wilcutt, Pilot Scott Altman, American mission specialists Daniel Burbank, Edward Lu and Richard Mastracchio and Russian mission specialists Yuri Malenchenko and Boris Morukov.

Commander Wilcutt said the variety of goals set makes this mission stand out.

"Having the opportunity to fly on a space shuttle mission is an awesome experience, but what makes STS-106 special is the wide and challenging range of tasks we will perform. During our mission, we will fly to and dock with the space station, perform a space walk, open up a brand new module, install and check out crucial systems on board the station, unload a cargo resupply vessel, operate the shuttle robotic arm, and finally undock and fly around the station.

"One of the most fulfilling aspects of our flight is the international nature of the International Space Station project," he said. "Our joint U.S./Russian crew will train here in Houston, as well as in Star City, Russia, and Baikonur, Kazakhstan. This truly is an astronaut's dream mission."

Mission objectives include using the SPACEHAB Double Module and the Integrated Cargo Carrier to take supplies to the station.

STS-106 is expected to launch Sept. 8 at 7:31 a.m CDT. The launch window is 10 minutes.

Plant fluorescence sensor gets a boost from SBIR at Stennis

Growers and foresters alike have another potential source for monitoring and improving the health of their crops due to the work of a Billerica, Mass., company, funded through the NASA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program at Stennis Space Center. Aerodyne Research, Inc. has successfully developed the Plant Fluorescence Sensor (PFS), a real-time sensor that monitors plant health by remotely sensing energy lost from the plant during the process of photosynthesis.

Field tests of the sensor are being conducted by the Earth System Science Office (ESSO) at Stennis under the direction of Ecophysiologist Dr. Greg Carter, ESSO deputy chief and National Research Council Senior Research Associate Dr. Arnold Theisen.

The Aerodyne sensor measures the intensity and spectral band ratio of chlorophyll fluorescence in green plants. This measure provides a good indication of the general health of the plant.

"The most unique aspect of this sensor is that it enables us to measure fluorescence from plants while they remain exposed to full sunlight," said Carter.

Stennis Technology Transfer Officer Kirk Sharp said officials expect passive remote sensing of plant fluorescence to be proven a reliable and readily available tool for the early detection of plant stress, thereby providing benefits which include improvements in crop yield, forestry management practices and environmental monitoring by remote sensing.

Director's Dialogue

from Center Director
Roy Estess

Solar Safe: Skin Cancer Prevention Program

Last month I shared a personal story with you concerning my heart condition and encouraged you to take personal responsibility for your health. This month I want to share another health concern of equal importance — skin cancer.

Stennis is located in the sunbelt of America. As a result, our work force is potentially at risk for developing some forms of skin cancer in greater numbers than normally expected due to excessive exposure to the sun. The best defense against skin cancer is to be informed. The most common forms of the disease are non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers. About 47,700 new melanomas are expected to be diagnosed in the United States during 2000, as well as more than 1.3 million non-melanoma cases.

NASA would like to prevent suffering and potential death associated with skin cancer among its employees. Through the Agency's Occupational Health Program, I have directed Dr. Maurice Taquino, Stennis' medical director, to develop a Skin Cancer Prevention Program to increase your awareness on this important topic. Individuals under 40 should have a skin examination by a physician every three years. Beginning at 40, skin screening exams should be done annually.

An internal Web site has been developed containing a host of medical information on a variety of topics. I encourage you to review and bookmark the web address: *www.ohp.nasa.gov/topics/skin*. In the weeks to come, Dr. Taquino's staff will be highlighting the importance of skin cancer prevention through use of posters, brochures and the intranet. I encourage you to take this matter seriously.

Even as I believe that accidents are preventable, I also believe that skin cancers may be preventable if we take some basic precautions. Stay in good health.

Roy

Representatives of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) met with Commercial Remote Sensing Program (CRSP) Office Chief David Brannon, as well as George May, director, ITD-Spectral Visions at Stennis. The groups discussed plans for the upcoming AG20/20 Initiative, a partnership between NASA, USDA, NAWG and three other commodity associations. A focus of the discussion was how to best showcase this new NASA partnership at NAWG's next annual meeting in February in New Orleans. Shown are, from left, Dr. Paul Mask, Auburn University; Gina Hobak, NAWG Director of Communications; Brannon; June Silverberg, NAWG Director of Business Development; Dr. Dewey Lee, University of Georgia; and May.

NASA Honor Awards 2000

John C. Stennis Space Center presented its prestigious NASA Honor Awards to 118 employees Aug. 9 in ceremonies in the StenniSphere auditorium. The NASA Honor Awards are the highest form of recognition that the Agency bestows to employees, contractors and members of the community.

This year's awards went to Dr. David Powe, who was given the Outstanding Leadership Medal; Michael Dawson and Linda Slade, who received NASA's Exceptional Service Medals; Joey Kirkpatrick, who received an Exceptional Achievement Award; and Chet Miller and George Schloegel, both of whom received Public Service Medals.

The NASA Honor Awards are presented annually to a number of carefully selected individuals and groups, both government and non-government, who make outstanding contributions to the NASA mission at Stennis Space Center.

NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, was guest speaker at the awards ceremony.

NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal

The Outstanding Leadership Medal is awarded for notable leadership that has had a pronounced effect upon the technical or administrative programs of NASA. The leadership award may be given for an act of leadership or for sustained contributions based on an individual's effectiveness as a leader, the productivity of the individual's program, or the demonstrated ability to develop the administrative or technical talents of other employees.

Powe, chief, Stennis Office of Education and University Affairs, was honored for his leadership that has resulted in improvements to the educational programs at Stennis, NASA, the state, and the nation in the areas of systemic educational reform and work force development.

NASA's Exceptional Service Medal

NASA's Exceptional Service Medals are awarded for significant sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support, or space-related endeavors which contribute to the mission of NASA.

Dawson, chief of the Stennis Propulsion Test Program Office, was honored for his excellent management of the day-to-day facets of multimillion dollar test assets, consolidation strategies, and setting world-class standards for effectiveness and efficiency. Dawson was the major force in developing and negotiating the Propulsion Test Budget Line Item. This noteworthy achievement will have a far-reaching impact and fosters

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Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, left, presented an Exceptional Service Medal to Mike Dawson, chief of the Stennis Propulsion Test Program Office.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented the Outstanding Leadership Medal to Dr. David Powe of Gulfport, chief of the Education and University Affairs Office at Stennis. Standing with Powe is his wife, Brenda.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, left, presented an Exceptional Service Medal to Linda Slade of Diamondhead, an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented the Exceptional Achievement Medal to Joey Kirkpatrick of Diamondhead, an electronics engineer with the Stennis Propulsion Test Directorate. Standing with Kirkpatrick is his wife, Caroline.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented a Public Service Medal to George Schloegel of Gulfport, president and chief executive officer for Hancock Bank. Standing with Schloegel is his wife, Peggy.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented a Public Service Medal to Chester (Chet) Miller of Covington, La., general manager of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Programs. Standing with Miller is his wife, Ginny.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented the NASA Certificate of Appreciation to Gail Mitchell of Carriere. Standing with Mitchell is her husband, Jerry.

The Stennis Fastrac Test Team was recognized with a Group Achievement Award for demonstrating outstanding performance during design, construction, activation and operations of both the Horizontal Test Facility and the Vertical Propulsion Test Article facility on the B-2 test stand. The MC-1 engine, formerly known as Fastrac, is a 60,000 pound-thrust engine that will be used for the powered flights of NASA's X-34 technology demonstrator rocket plane. Richard King, Fastrac Engine Project Manager, accepted the award for the group.

The Stennis Space Center Liquid Hydrogen Barge #2 Inner Tank Repair Team was honored for its outstanding efforts in making substantial repairs to the liquid hydrogen barge that provides propellants for engine testing of the Space Shuttle Main Engines, the X-33 linear aerospike engine, and the Delta IV RS-68 engine. This challenging and successful repair was due to the team's dedication, technical expertise and ability to work together with the single-minded goal of getting this critical equipment back into test support. James Biles, mechanical engineer for the Test Engineering and Operations, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Program, accepted the award for the group.

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(Continued from Page 5)

Agency goals and objectives, creates program savings in propulsion test projects, and allows for a more effective use of institutional resources.

Slade, an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel at Stennis, was honored for work in her dual roles as both attorney and congressional liaison. She has been a key contributor to Stennis Space Center's lead center assignments in propulsion testing and commercial remote sensing. Capitalizing on her background as a congressional staff assistant, she has used her diplomatic skills and political insight to raise Stennis' level of sophistication in congressional relations and increase the center's political visibility and significance.

Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess, far right, and NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator of the Office of Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg, far left, presented the NASA Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award to Robert Lightfoot of Mandeville, La., NASA's Propulsion Test Operations Division. Standing with him is his wife, Caroline.

NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal

The Exceptional Achievement Medal is awarded for a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution clearly characterized by a substantial and significant improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

Kirkpatrick, an electronics engineer with the Stennis Propulsion Test Directorate was honored for the co-development of a high-speed, digital-data system used by the A-, B-, and E-Complex test facilities. This new system allows for faster and more flexible analysis of test data, facilitating better analysis of propulsion systems. The fiber-optic transceiver is not only valuable as part of the propulsion tests system, but also has potential commercial value.

NASA Group Achievement Awards

The NASA Group Achievement Awards are given to non-government groups in recognition of outstanding accomplishments that have contributed substantially to the NASA mission.

The Stennis Fastrac Test Team was faced with the challenge of modernizing and reactivating a dormant test stand with the latest state-of-the-art systems, while maintaining an aggressive test schedule. They set records for achieving the full-duration test early in the test series. As a direct result of their success, the Fastrac Project has enjoyed tremendous positive support from the Agency and industry.

Fastrac Test Team members included Steven Baggette, Gary Benton, Donald Chenevert, Reginald Ellis, Phillip Hebert, Mark Hughes, Richard King, Joseph Lacher, Bryon Maynard, Buddy Newbold, Albert Pulley, Nickey Raines, Richard Rider, Barry Robinson, Constance Shuler, John Stealey, Steven Taylor, Susan Weiner, and Burnley Wigley, all of NASA; Gary Bennett, Byron Bordelon, Joseph Diggs, Travis Kennedy, Byron Ladner, Tuan Ninh, Melvin Redmond, Stacey Smith, Samuel Stephens, and James Williams, all of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Programs; Owen Brayson, Michael Brown, Michael Laptas, Thomas Lipp, Paul Miller, all of The Boeing Company, Rocketdyne; and Roger Blake and Timothy Jarrell, both of Mississippi Space Services.

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Miller finds way to blend chief financial office duties, family

Billie Faye Miller

Stennis Employee Profile

Billie Faye Miller's blue eyes light up when she talks about her grandchildren. And, while she refuses to brag about her numerous accomplishments as a trailblazer in her profession, she is certainly in her comfort zone paying tribute to her granddaughter and grandson.

Twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, Keasha Miller, is a recent University of Southern Mississippi graduate in recreational therapy who is finishing up an internship at a hospital in Lafayette, La. Grandson Kyle Miller, 18, is an athlete and scholar who recently received an academic scholarship to Mississippi State University where he plans to study engineering.

When speaking of her bubbly, vivacious granddaughter, it is plain to see where these attributes originated. Miller is a tall blond with a wealth of energy and a positive outlook on life.

A 36-year veteran at Stennis, Miller started work Oct. 12, 1964, as a data processor for General Electric, the contractor at that time for the new technical field.

Miller's arrival at Stennis marked a milestone of sorts — she was the first female hired for data processing. However, when hearing Miller describe her arrival, she downplays this significant achievement and the glowing recommendations from IBM officials that brought her here.

Prior to arriving at Stennis, Miller taught data processing at Pearl River Junior College, building a network of friends and associates in only one year. "Recommendations from IBM caused General Electric to call and ask if I'd like to work with them," Miller said.

The early days of Stennis were rough and ready, with many of the buildings still under construction and temporary offices set up in hallways and in buildings in Picayune.

"I started work before the machines were ordered," Miller said, noting that she was able to offer input into the formation of the data processing function at the new test site. After setting up in a hallway of what is now Building 2203, the data processors later moved to an old factory building in Picayune. As construction continued, space was made available on site, and Miller continued to work in data processing even as contractors for the data processing function changed over the years.

"I did business programming for GE and held supervisory positions with GE, Global Associates, and Pan Am," she said.

In January 1989, Miller moved to the position of budget analyst with NASA and that is where we found her managing funds for the center and its programs. Through all the years, Miller said the one constant has been the quality of people with whom she's worked.

"I've been blessed to work with the nicest people," she said. "I've loved working with NASA because of the people, and I'm proud of the work NASA does."

A resident of Carriere, Miller speaks with great respect of her late husband, Jerry Miller. He was a well-known horseman who both trained horses and judged horse competitions as a hobby. During her husband's years in the horse riding circuit, Miller also competed in the western pleasure, trail classes and halter divisions.

Her son, Gary Ray Miller, lives in Moss Point with his wife, Theresa, who is a math teacher in Biloxi. He is a high school coach and teaches special children in the Pascagoula School District.

Thoughts of her son naturally brings conversation back to granddaughter Keasha, and her plans for the future.

"She has a dream," Miller said with that sparkle in her eye, "of running a camp for special children at our house and letting the children ride our horses to assist in their therapy."

Considering offering more of her time to volunteer service, Miller said she would be happy to make Keasha's dream her's also.

Steve Taylor of Stennis Space Center, far right, represented the center in the receipt of a Fastrac engine award at the "Turning Goals into Reality" Conference in Huntsville, Ala., in May. Other team members are, from left, Ron Unger of Summa Technologies and Mike Ise of Marshall Space Flight Center. Samuel Venneri, Associate Administrator in NASA's Office of Aerospace Technology, second from right, presented the award. This is the team's second national recognition in as many years. In 1999, the project team received a Continual Improvement Award at the 14th annual Continual Improvement and Reinvention Conference at NASA Headquarters.

United Way and CFC fund drives to begin

A sitewide picnic on the front lawn of the Naval Oceanographic Office's main building Wednesday, Aug. 30, will kick off this year's Stennis Space Center fund-raising effort for the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns. The picnic will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will include free food and entertainment.

More than 30 local charities to benefit from UW and CFC contributions will have displays. The Stennis Child Development Center will have a bake sale and fund-raiser. Goodwill Industries will provide a drop box for clothing donations.

Last year the two campaigns raised more than $300,000.

Leo Ponder of Mississippi Space Services is coordinating the on-site United Way Campaign. Judy Dauro of the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command is coordinator for CFC activities. For more details, call her at Ext. 4189.

Members of the Outsourcing Desktop Initiative for NASA (ODIN) support team at Stennis Space Center confer during their Technology Exposition in the Bldg. 1100 atrium Aug. 8. From the left are Jim Sherrer, OAO Program Manager; Myles Bernard, OAO Deputy Program Manager; Terry Bordelon, NASA-Stennis ODIN Program Manager; and Charles Young, OAO Outreach Manager. Bordelon and Sherrer were speakers at the exposition, which exhibited technology available at Stennis through the ODIN contract.

Stennis Space Center was the first stop July 31 for congressional staff on a two-day tour of NASA facilities. The trip also included a visit to Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Led by NASA Headquarters Office of Legislative Affairs, the group was briefed on Stennis' Lead Center assignments in propulsion testing and commercial remote sensing and toured the center's test facilities, as well as the Boeing RS-68 assembly facility and StenniSphere. Congressional staffers pictured looking over an RS-68 engine are, from left, Lionel Collins, Rep. William Jefferson (D-La.); Stanley Allen, Rep. Nick Lampson (D-Texas); Barbara Cherry, NASA Legislative Affairs; Jean Toal, Senate Commerce Committee; Joann Clark, Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.); and John Duddy, Boeing's Director of SSC Engine Assembly.

HONOR AWARDS . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

NASA Public Service Medals

The NASA Public Service Medals are awarded to any individual who was not a government employee during the period in which the service was performed. The award is granted for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA.

Chester (Chet) Miller, general manager, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Programs, was honored for his many contributions to NASA and to Stennis. Miller's aggressive pursuit of new test and technology programs for the Stennis site has made maximizing the use of its assets and capabilities for government and commercial programs no longer a formidable goal but a dynamic reality.

Hancock Bank's George Schloegel was honored for his lon g-standing reputation for leadership in the community, and for his tireless and steadfast promotion and support of the missions and programs of NASA and Stennis Space Center.

NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award

The Stennis Space Center Liquid Hydrogen Barge #2 Inner Tank Repair Team was honored for their outstanding efforts in making substantial repairs to the liquid hydrogen barge that provides propellants for engine testing of the Space Shuttle Main Engines, the X-33 linear aerospike engine, and the Delta IV RS-68 engine. This challenging and successful repair was due to the team's dedication, technical expertise and their ability to work together with a single-minded goal of getting this critical equipment back into test support.

Team members honored included: Roy Ard, James Biles, Louis Carrier, Billy Davis, Terry Eveland, Gerald Howard, Jerry Jordan, Jody Knight, James Landrum, Jerry Lewis, Jack Lord, Steven Martin, George Mucha, Randy Overton, Mark Powe and Tom Wolfe, all of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Programs; and James Alexander, Kenneth Bourque, Brian Corr, James Cuevas, Allen Foresman, Robert Hayward, Raymond Jarrell, Chris Johnson, Kermit Ladner, Joseph Lizana, Benjamin McGrath, Douglas Necaise and Elmer Peterson, all of Mississippi Space Services.

Safety Corner

Don't take any chances with lightning strikes

Where there are thunderstorms, there is the possibility of being struck by lightning. You are in danger from lightning, if you can hear thunder. Because light travels much faster than sound, lightning flashes can be seen long before the resulting thunder is heard.

If weather data is not available, you can estimate the number of miles you are from a thunderstorm by counting the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder. Then, divide this number by five.

According to recommendations by the National Lightning Safety Institute, when you first see lightning or hear thunder, suspend activities and go to shelter. If outdoors, avoid water, high ground and open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees.

Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building that has a lightning protection system or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or van with the windows completely shut.

If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, crouch down and put your feet together. Also, avoid proximity (minimum 15 ft.) to other people.

QUICK LOOK

■ **The Stennis Rotary Club is now chartered.** Any employees who want to join may attend the Stennis Rotary Club meetings at 11 a.m. Tuesdays in Bldg. 1100, Room 130. For details, call Rob Young at Ext. 5867.

■ **Hancock Bank has installed a new ATM** at Stennis' newly reopened visitor center, StenniSphere. The new machine is in the main lobby of StenniSphere just outside the entrance to the Space Odyssey Gift Shop and RocKeTeria restaurant. For more information, call Stacey Spiers at 688-3053.

■ **The Wellness Center is having a "Back to School"** special from Aug. 14 through Sept. 15. The initial assessment and reinstatement fee will be waived during this period — a savings of $25. For additional information call Ext. 3950 or e-mail *wellness.center@ssc.nasa.gov*.

■ **The Federally Employed Women's Outreach program** at Stennis asks that you remember Hope Haven when you buy school supplies for the coming school year. Donated supplies may be dropped off at Bldg. 1100, Room 213, or call Judy Cook at Ext. 2364 for details.

StenniSphere visitor count nearly triples after center reopens

Officials at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center have learned the truth behind the words, "If you build it, they will come." By the end of August, the visitor count is expected to surpass 80,000.

Eleven months ago, Stennis Space Center began an extensive redesign and expansion of its visitor center, renaming it StenniSphere, and crowds have not slowed since its opening day on May 26.

StenniSphere has averaged 941 visitors a day compared to 395 per day during the same time — May 26-Aug. 16 — last year. The increased visitors count represents more than a 250 percent increase in tourist traffic through the center that is ground zero for all of NASA's rocket propulsion testing.

"Launching our tours from the popular Mississippi I-10 Welcome Center in Hancock County has truly opened the doors to Stennis Space Center and allowed us to capitalize on the tremendous number of tourists travelling on this major thoroughfare," NASA's Public Affairs Chief Myron Webb said. "Perhaps more important, though, than the visitor count is the positive feedback from visitors about their experience at our new family attraction," From school tours and family outings to interstate travelers, 81,208 visitors are expected to have been educated and entertained at the Mississippi Gulf Coast's newest major attraction by Labor Day weekend.

LAGNIAPPE

Lagniappe is published monthly by the John C. Stennis Space Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Roy Estess is the center director, Myron Webb is the public affairs chief, and Lanee Cooksey is the news chief. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the Lagniappe Office, Building 1200, Room 208D, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, or call (228) 688-2313.

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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